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# Cajun Country Sampler Tour

October 9 to October 20, 1985



Howard Simmons

**A Domestic Study Tour Offered by the  
ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM SOCIETY**



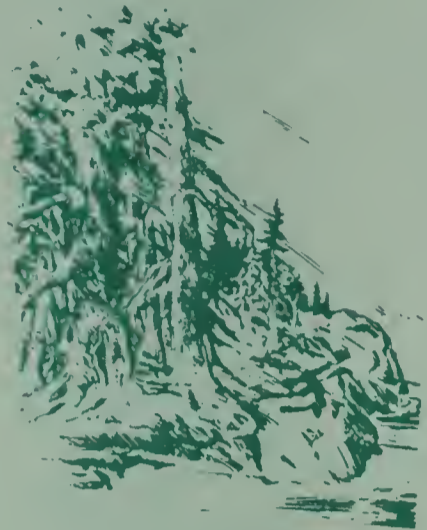
# CAJUN COUNTRY SAMPLER TOUR

October 9-20, 1985

“This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks . . .”

With these oft-quoted words, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow sets the somber and dramatic tone of his epic poem, *Evangeline*. The poem is based on the tragic story of Emmaline Labiche and Louis Arceneaux

who became separated during the Acadian expulsion from Canada in the 1750's and were finally reunited beneath the now-famous *Evangeline* oak in St. Martinsville, Louisiana. Join the Illinois State Museum Society's trip to this charming area of the Cajun land in southern Louisiana as the focal point of the 1985 CAJUN COUNTRY SAMPLER TOUR.



*"Forest Primeval"*

From Springfield, the route will lead to Eureka Springs in Arkansas, through the scenic Ozark Mountains, and on to Natchitoches in Louisiana. Here we will begin to savor the essence of Cajun Country with its special version of American history, distinctive language, and unique cuisine as we tour historic houses and Acadian museums and explore the bayou country around Lafayette, Louisiana. After a visit to Avery Island and the Jungle Gardens there, the tour will include ante-bellum and Acadian houses in the Franklin and Houma areas of Louisiana. For a few days the tour will be in New Orleans after which the returning journey will include more ante-bellum homes and plantation-style food. Our last evening together will be at the grand old Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, followed by a pause in St. Louis the next day for lunch at the historic DeMenil Mansion as we return to Springfield.

This is the fourth consecutive extended tour offered by the Illinois State Museum Society; and as before, after each day's journey we will relax in first-class lodges, inns, or hotels.

## Wednesday, October 9

Eureka Springs, Arkansas, is our destination today as we begin our journey southward. Enroute to Eureka Springs we will visit the Stonehill Winery in Herman, Missouri, followed by an included German-style lunch at the Vintage 1847 Restaurant. We will continue through the Missouri Ozarks and lake country to our lodging in the Victorian-age Crescent Hotel where you will be our guests for a buffet dinner as well as breakfast tomorrow.



## Thursday, October 10

You may want to sleep late, or you may choose to explore the arts and crafts shops in downtown Eureka Springs, often referred to as “Little Switzerland.” We will visit the Thorncrown Chapel which has been publicized frequently for its unique architecture and location and its achievement as one man’s dream. Enjoy the scenic Ozark Mountains as we wend our way to the Queen Wilhelmina Lodge at Mena. Your evening meal will be included.

## Friday, October 11

Today we will journey to the Crater of Diamonds State Park in southern Arkansas. Since the discovery of the crater in 1906 more than 60,000 diamonds have been found, the largest being over 16 carats found by a tourist in 1975. Our lodging tonight will be in Natchitoches, Louisiana, founded as a French outpost in 1714.

## Saturday, October 12

Our focal point today is Natchitoches where a local guide will tell us of the history of the area, including Beau Fort and Melrose plantations on the Cane River.



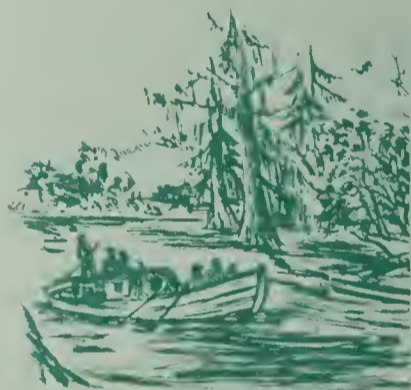
Your lunch, typical of this area’s cuisine, is our treat. Other plantation houses of the early 1800’s will be visited in the afternoon. Our lodging for the next three nights will be Lafayette, Louisiana, in the heart of Cajun Country.

## Sunday, October 13

We will have a local guide for the next two days as we discover the Cajun mystique. The Acadians, exiled from Nova Scotia in 1755, found their way to this area. Our day begins with a visit to the Acadian Village which has celebrated a life-style of Cajuns along Louisiana bayous from the 1700's to the present time. From Lafayette we will proceed to Evangeline country with stops scheduled at Longfellow/Evangeline State Park, the oldest park in the state; the Acadian House; St. Martins De Tours Church, mother church of the Acadians; and the Evangeline oak along the banks of historic Bayou Teche. Lunch will afford you the chance to sample tasty Cajun cooking as our guest.



## Monday, October 14



This morning we will take a boat trip into the Atchafalaya Basin, America's largest waterland wilderness, to see the Cypress Forest, inhabited by thousands of different species of animals and plants. It is one of America's few remaining great semiwilderness areas.

Also included in our sightseeing today is Shadows-on-the-Teche, a Greek Revival ante-bellum home, and the Armand Broussard House built by Acadian settlers in the 1700's. Both houses are located in the New Iberia area. This evening we will go to a rural area for a Fais-Do-Do where French folk music is played for the local two-step. Both dancing and music are a part of the Cajun heritage. Again tonight you will be treated to more delicious Cajun food.

## Tuesday, October 15

Our travel this morning will take us to Avery Island for a tour of the McIlhenny Company, manufacturer of Tabasco Brand pepper sauce. We will also visit the Jungle Gardens, renowned for its extraordinary plantings and bird sanctuary. Near Franklin, Louisiana, we will tour the historic landmark, Oaklawn Manor, a large, classic Revival mansion of brick and

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stone. From there we will continue to Houma's Southdown Plantation/Terrebonne Museum and on to New Orleans and the Prince Conti Hotel in the Vieux Carre, our home for three nights.

### Wednesday, October 16



Enjoy the special sights, sounds and aromas of New Orleans, often called America's most interesting city. You will have this time in New Orleans free to experience whatever you choose. We will get together late tomorrow morning for our treat of a typical New Orleans brunch at Brennan's.

### Thursday, October 17

Following brunch we will visit the old creole-style San Francisco house in Reserve and beautiful Oak Alley Plantation in Vacherie. If you would rather spend the day in New Orleans, you may tour the city, visit St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square, shop the French Quarter, take a paddleboat harbor tour, or just sit and sip a mint julep.

### Friday, October 18

This morning we bid adieu to New Orleans and journey to Nottoway, the largest plantation home in the



South. Your plantation-style lunch is included as well as a tour of this home. As we travel northward on Highway 61, we will pass many ante-bellum homes enroute to St. Francisville where we will visit Oakley and Rose-down plantations. Imagine being able to relive the gracious ante-bellum style of life, as we will do by spending the night in one of these mansions, the Burn, Monmouth, or the Linden, located in Natchez, Mississippi. Tonight we have included a real Southern Style dinner at the Carriage House of Stanton Hall.

### Saturday, October 19

Be our guest for a plantation breakfast before continuing our journey to Memphis. Our travels today will take us to Vicksburg for a drive through the his-

toric area; later an included box lunch will be served enroute to Memphis. We plan to arrive at the Peabody Hotel in time to see the ducks parade from the pool in the lobby into the elevator on their way to the penthouse where they spend the night. On this last evening of our tour, we invite you to join us for an included dinner at the Peabody.

### Sunday, October 20

As we journey homeward, we will pause in St. Louis for a tour of the DeMenil Mansion and an included lunch at the Carriage House on the grounds. Before leaving St. Louis, we plan to drive through the Lafayette Square area to view the Victorian homes so beautifully restored.



A quote from a Lafayette, Louisiana, brochure makes this promise to visitors: “You not only hear French in Cajun Country, you feel it in their music, taste it in their food, and see it in their architecture and art. You find it in their history and heritage. It sets them apart from other places, makes them different, and forms the essence of the Cajun mystique. It puts romance in their souls and spirit in their lives. And, it does the same for folks just visiting.” We are sure you will agree that they kept their promise!



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Price Includes:**

Double occupancy in first-class lodges, inns, or hotels; motorcoach transportation (we use the rotation system in seating); meals as follows: two breakfasts, plus brunch at Brennan's, six lunches, and five dinners; baggage handling of one large suitcase per person in and out of lodgings; services of Nancy N. Patton, Administrator, Illinois State Museum Society; a representative of Triangle Tours; and local guides. A Book Box will provide supplementary information on the itinerary.

### **Price Does *Not* Include:**

Single-room supplement of \$310; maid's gratuities; transportation to and from Springfield, Illinois; meals other than those indicated as included; services such as phone calls or room service and items not on the table d'hôte.

### **Registration:**

A completed, signed application form with a deposit of \$100 is required for each registrant. Space is reserved in order of receipt of application. Reservations will not be accepted by telephone. Deposits are applied to payment of the tour price. Applicant must be at least 16 years of age; those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

### **Final Payment:**

Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure: August 25, 1985.

Full refund will be made if a written cancellation is received not less than 45 days before departure. After that date a \$100 cancellation fee will be charged. An additional refund cannot be made unless your reservation can be filled.

### **Responsibility:**

The Illinois State Museum Society accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, war, or other causes. All such losses must be borne by the participant. The Museum Society reserves the right to withdraw without penalty to the Illinois State Museum Society any tour previously announced and to make such altera-

tions in the schedule as may be found desirable for the convenience of the parties and the proper conduct of the tour and to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time when such action is determined by the Museum representative to be in the best interests of health, safety, and general welfare of the group, or the individual participant, with such participant providing for his/her subsequent expenses. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant when in his/her possession.

**Code:** ST4

**Dates:** October 9-20, 1985

**Cost:** \$1398 from Springfield, Illinois. (Museum Society members, in good standing, may deduct \$25 from the final payment.)

Arrangements by Triangle Tours



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